

Clayfords Farm , Strichen:-

(PPC Application for new permit)

CF. 4. Non –Technical Summary

The development of the farm free range eggs business represents an opportunity to expand their existing free range egg unit and benefit from the economies of scale. This will not replace the farm's existing range of activities but will reduce the land available for those other activities because of the area allocated for the range.

The production of a balanced organic manure will contribute significantly to the partnership ethos of reducing further, its carbon footprint and will result in the reduction of application of inorganic fertilisers elsewhere off the permitted site.

Laying hens will be free range and housed in single story 'aviary system' with pop holes to the range. The existing unit houses 16,000 birds whilst the proposed one will house a further 32,000 birds.

Exhaust from the existing building will be primarily via high velocity roof fans sited along the roof apex whilst exhaust ventilation from the new house will again be via high velocity roof fans but sited on the west gable end. Auxiliary west gable end fans on the new site will exhaust through tree belts to maximise the capture of residual ammonia/ dust. Their use will be limited to times of the year when extra ventilation is required for bird welfare.

Birds will be housed in multi-tier units with a concrete base and with a bed of wood shavings. Consistent with normal practice, birds will be received at approx. 16 weeks old as laying pullets and retained for approx. 65 weeks before depletion and forwarding on to another farm for ultimate use in the food chain.

Depletion will therefore be less than once / year.

Ventilation will be computer controlled to create a stable climate at around 21°C and the air also improved in quality as it enters the building.

Air inlets will be predominantly on the roofs on the new building and sited along each side of the existing house. These will be augmented in warm weather by side, 'passive' air inlets.

Drinking water supply to the birds will be to the latest design to minimise leakage / spillage and feed will be tailored to the birds' needs throughout the egg production cycle.

The principal emissions managed through the PPC permitting process are ammonia, and dust to the air along with the remote risk of odour. Water will not have a direct discharge to the environment except for a small domestic septic tank where effluent will discharge to a conventional soakaway. Feed and air management will ensure emissions are maintained at a low level.

Waste water is only generated when the poultry houses are cleaned out at depletion and contained in sealed tanks for disposal onto farm land, compliant with good farming practice.

Waste (general) is minimal but all will be reused or recycled wherever possible.

Extensive tree planting at the gable ends will contribute to air quality and tree / shrub planting in the range will contribute to both air quality and overall bird welfare.

Tailoring the protein in feedstuffs during the cycle will additionally reduce the potential for ammonia generation.

Manure will be removed regularly to reduce ammonia generation by an internal belt system and will be used as a fertiliser. When removed from the houses, the old litter / dried manure on the floor will also be used as a valuable organic nutrient source on local farms.